

THE ARCHITECTURAL JOURNAL

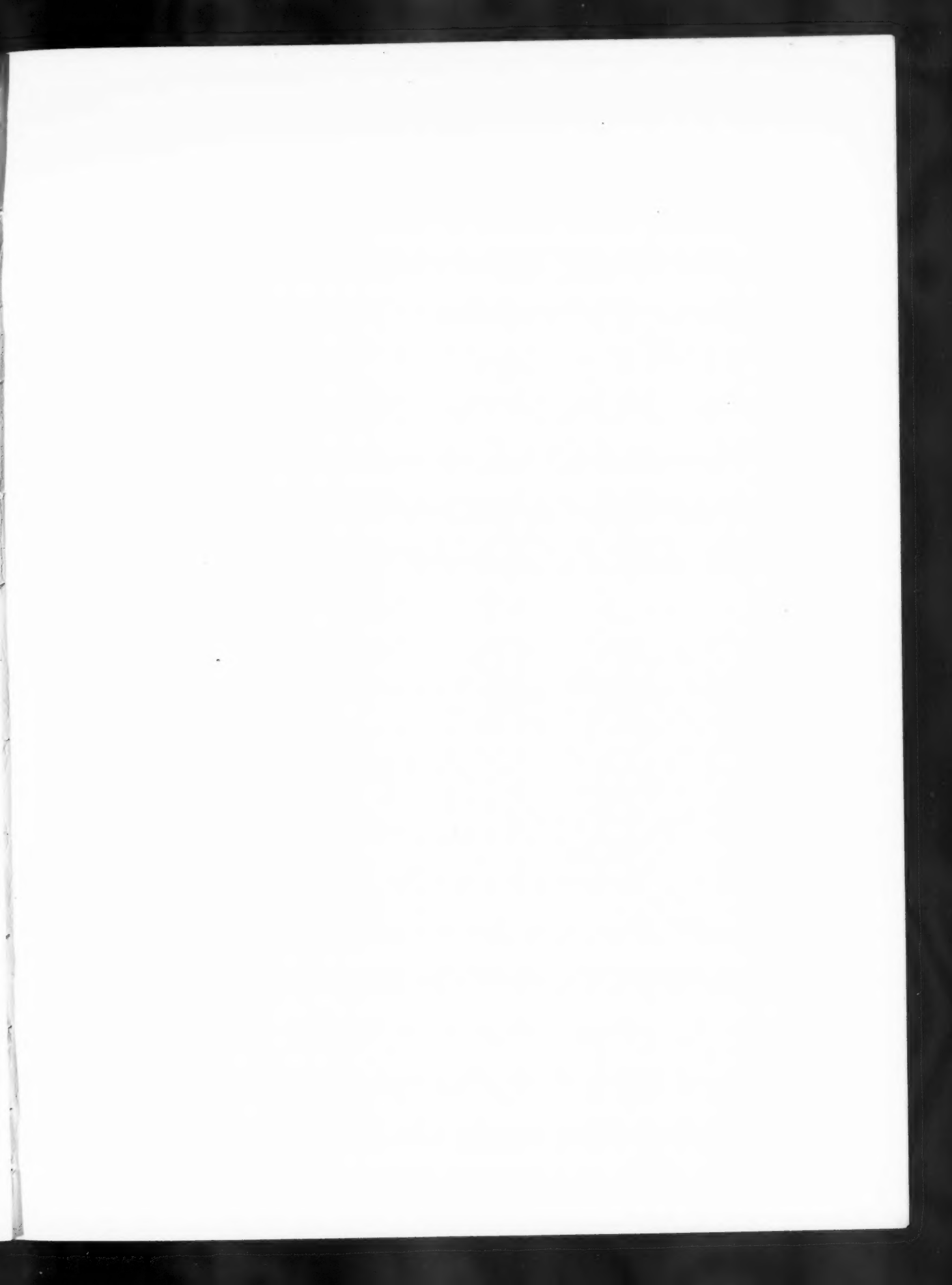
BEING THE JOURNAL OF

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

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Charles F. McKim

CHARLES FOLLEN MCKIM,
President of the American Institute of Architects.
ROYAL GOLD MEDALLIST 1903.

JOURNAL

OF

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

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JOURNAL

OF

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

SESSION 1902-1903.

THE OPENING ADDRESS. Delivered by the President, Mr. ASTON WEBB, A.R.A., F.S.A., at the First General Meeting, Monday, 3rd November 1902.

COLLEAGUES, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—

SINCE our last meeting in this room two events of national importance have taken place: the dangerous illness and marvellous recovery of our Sovereign the King; and the Coronation of the King and Queen in Westminster Abbey on 9th August—an event attended by all the splendour of the ancient rites and ceremonies which tradition has handed down to us as fitting for such an occasion; and it seems but right that the first words of the President of this Royal Institute should be to express on behalf of its members their thankfulness for this happy consummation of their hopes and aspirations.

My next words must be to thank you for the honour you have done me in placing me in this Chair; an honour which carries with it many responsibilities, which I shall do my best to fulfil; but whether I succeed or not, I will ask you to believe that I am actuated solely by what I consider to be the best interests of architecture, and of this Institute in which I have always been a firm believer.

I am aware that my task is not made the easier by the admirable manner in which these duties were performed by my friend and immediate predecessor, Sir William Emerson; and I am glad to take this opportunity of publicly congratulating him, on behalf of the members of this Institute and myself, on the high honour of knighthood conferred upon him by his Sovereign; an honour which has given much pleasure and satisfaction to all of us, the more so that it is, I believe, the first time that a President of this Institute has been so honoured.

It is now my duty as your President to notice, as concisely as I can, some of the questions on the art and practice of architecture and the affairs of this Institute which present themselves to us at the present time, and in doing so I will ask you to understand that I in no way lay claim to any special fitness for this task, but that it is merely through the fact of my present position that I am privileged to do so.

On looking back over the last ten years I think we may fairly congratulate ourselves on the progress this Institute has made, the position it has attained, and, more important than all, the work it has done during that period. Ten years ago we had 1,400 Fellows

and Associates; now we have nearly 1,700; not perhaps so large an increase as we could wish, but still a considerably larger increase than in the previous ten years.

It is true that our Register still lacks the names of some distinguished architects whom we should like to see there, and whose presence would strengthen our power for good, not only in London, but throughout the country. Many of them we know to be well-wishers of this Institute, and to appreciate the work we are doing; I can only say we should greatly value their presence amongst us, and should give due weight to their opinions on any matters in which they may consider that the policy of this Institute could be made increasingly useful especially in the interests of architecture.

Within the last few weeks we have been much gratified to receive a proposal for alliance from the Edinburgh Architectural Association, which has hitherto held somewhat aloof from us, and we shall, I am sure, all welcome the accession to our ranks of so earnest and able a body of architects, numbering many men who are really enthusiastic and doing good work, and, though the distance between us is great, I hope we may not infrequently have the pleasure of welcoming some of their members amongst us here, and that the alliance may prove of advantage to both Societies.

It has often struck me how little we know of the proceedings of our Allied Societies, their aims and the matters on which they feel most strongly, and that anything that would bring us more into touch with them would be a mutual advantage. With this view, one naturally turns to the JOURNAL, so ably conducted by our Secretary, Mr. Locke, and there we find our noble selves fully reported in all the glory of large print, but not much space given to the proceedings of our Allied Societies; and it appears to me that if that space could be increased, a portion allotted to each Society, and if the Societies would help us by sending up reports of their papers and discussions, we should all get to know a great deal more of what is going on in the country, and become more familiar with the men who are taking an active part in each Society's affairs, while the information thus given would greatly widen the interest of our JOURNAL. The addresses of the local Presidents could be printed, together with other papers and discussions; and these could, if so desired, be printed separately and issued to the members of the local Society concerned, and thus each Society could obtain an independent Journal of its own proceedings at a very moderate cost.

While on the subject of the JOURNAL, I may say the Editor would be very glad to receive communications from members which would add to the interest of the JOURNAL, not only from Fellows, but also from our younger members.

The President of the Architectural Association of Ireland (Mr. F. G. Hicks), in his opening address the other day, said, speaking of his Institute, "It isn't a bit up-to-date, and there seems very little cohesion among the members, for they seldom have an opportunity of meeting." Well, I have heard something of the same sort applied to this Institute, that there is a lack of opportunity for members to meet and know each other, and I propose, with the permission of the Council, to give one or two informal "At Homes" here during the Session, at which possibly smoking may be permitted (to bring us "a bit up-to-date") and where members may meet in a friendly way and get to know each other better; and I cannot help thinking that, if you will support me by your presence, some good may be done in this direction.

The admission of Fellows to this Institute can hardly yet be said to have arrived at a final and satisfactory settlement, and in my opinion this will not be done until Fellows are elected solely from the ranks of the Associates, except in very exceptional instances. But there are at present a large number of practising architects we wish to see Fellows whom we cannot expect to submit to our Examinations. This is a matter which will have to be once

more considered by your Council, more especially as the provision for the direct election of Fellows lapses in May next.

The financial position of the Institute is, I am glad to say, satisfactory. Ten years ago we had a capital of £5,800, now we have a capital of £11,500. *Then* our revenue hardly balanced our expenditure, *now* it exceeds it by something over £1,000 per annum.

It is obvious that this increased prosperity lays upon us the obligation of increased activity, for we are not a Society to accumulate funds, but rather to make proper use of those our increased prosperity supplies us with.

The question of premises is one that is always with us, and the increase of our office work, and that of the Library, is beginning to make it a very pressing one. In many ways our premises here suit us well enough, but we now occupy the whole of the building, with the exception of the galleries, &c., on the ground floor, which we unsuccessfully negotiated for on behalf of the Architectural Association and ourselves in 1896. Failing these galleries, our power of expansion here has come to an end, and the alternative is to build premises elsewhere. This raises the question of a site, which I mention now, as it is possible some of our members may know of something likely to suit our requirements, and, if so, we should be glad to receive from them any information or suggestions on the subject.

The Council, on the suggestion of the Finance Committee, have started a Premises Fund, and have placed the sum of £1,000 to this account.

A cause which I think this Institute should as far as possible assist is that of Architectural Education. The Institute, as an examining body, has deliberately left the education of architects to other architectural societies; and in this I think they have acted wisely, for the undue multiplication of educational centres is obviously undesirable. The Royal Academy has an excellent Architectural School, visited and instructed by architects, but does not undertake very elementary work, and deals with design only. The Architectural Association has recently started a Day School, dealing with elementary work, and worthy of every encouragement; it is a scheme which, I venture to think, this Institute would do well to foster by every means in its power, both financially and otherwise, while individual architects could also do much to assist it by advising parents to send their sons for one or two years to the school previous to their being articled to them.

These two schools, at the Academy and the Association, do to some extent overlap, and if a certain course at the Association schools could be recognised as giving entrance to the Lower Architectural School of the Royal Academy, much in the same way as certain work at the public schools will admit a man to the University of Oxford, subject of course to any conditions that might be thought desirable, a great impetus would be given to both schools, and architects might at last feel that the education of the next generation was in a fair way to being placed on a satisfactory footing that would be capable of great development. There is, I think, no worthier or more unselfish object for this Institute to promote, or one that is more likely to influence architecture for good, than the careful and systematic education of our young men, by a system which will not supplant the present system of apprenticeship, but will rather supplement it by supplying that which cannot be learned in an architect's office, or at least can be better taught systematically in a school.

Our Examinations are, I believe, proving of real use to the younger men, and, judging by the increasing number that enter for them, they are fully appreciated. Ten years ago 305 went up for these Examinations, while last year there were no fewer than 674.

The real benefit of these Examinations is the work required in the preparation for them. We do not claim that they necessarily turn out artists (these are born, not made), but we do claim that, with the knowledge thus obtained, it enables those who are gifted with the artistic

instinct the better, and with the more certainty, to realise their imaginations and aims. It is an object for a young man to work for, and an inducement for him to acquire knowledge in some branches of our complex art which, though very necessary for its proper realisation, are apt to be neglected as uncongenial. In connection with this matter may I venture to hope that architects will give all reasonable facilities to those under them to undergo the necessary preparation.

The question of competitions is another of those questions that are always with us, and as long as architects see fit to enter them it is plainly the duty of this Institute to do what it can to secure—first, the drawing up of such conditions as shall be fair to both parties, and at the same time not entail more labour on the competitors than is necessary to enable a competent assessor to arrive at a just decision; and secondly, to secure the adoption and execution of the best design.

With this end in view a series of suggestions for architectural competitions was drawn up by this Institute in 1881, and reconsidered and revised by the Council during the last Session. These have recently been sent to all public bodies likely to organise competitions; in addition to which a copy is always sent to the promoters of a contemplated competition as soon as it is heard of by the officials of this Institute. But when all this is done there still remains the question of the appointment of the assessor, a matter of supreme importance both to the promoters and the competitors. Ever since 1881–2 architects have insisted that a professional adviser should be appointed in all open competitions, and in many cases the President for the time being of this Institute is asked to nominate the assessor, and after some enquiry into the matter I can find but little objection taken to the selections made, or to the decisions given, bearing in mind, as I well know by experience, that the decision can seldom be thoroughly satisfactory to more than one of the competitors. It has been, however, urged by some that the selection of the assessor should be made by a small committee, rather than by the President, and that two or more assessors should be appointed in all competitions of any size. Personally I do not share this opinion, believing that the sense of individual responsibility is likely to give better results in both cases.

How far the system of selecting an architect by competition for the erection of any building is a desirable one will, I suppose, always be in dispute; but that it gives an equality of opportunity to all architects, great or small, known or unknown, is, I think, indisputable; and this has always seemed to me one of the strongest points in its favour, for we all could name men, now doing excellent work, whose first opportunity came by competition, and we know in this crowded world of ours how difficult it is for new men to obtain a hearing.

Before leaving matters more especially connected with the affairs of the Institute, I should like to say a word on behalf of the Architects' Benevolent Society. There are so many who faint by the way, and to whom a little temporary assistance is of untold value; there are so many others who have been worsted in the battle, and through ill-health and other difficulties have fallen out of the ranks, that great demands are made upon the funds of this Society. It is surely our duty to provide for them without going outside for help. Mr. Macvicar Anderson last year raised in a short time over £1,000 with this object, a very handsome and most acceptable addition to the funds; but interest is very small now and the cost of living very high, and the income of the Society still wants largely increasing. The Council of this Institute, for the first time, have voted an annual contribution of £20, and there would be nothing pleasanter than to see the number of annual subscribers largely increased during the present year. At present out of 617 Fellows, only 191 subscribe; and out of 1,066 Associates, only 70 subscribe. I venture to think that this ought not so to be.

And now, Gentlemen, if I have not already worn out your patience, I will ask you

to consider some questions of wider architectural interest than those we have been considering.

The interests of this Institute are with both old and new buildings.

Our interest in old buildings is to trace the history of their origin and growth, and to devise means for their maintenance and necessary repair.

The fall of the Campanile at Venice forcibly reminds us of the necessity for continual watchfulness as to the structural stability of ancient buildings, and the engineer's report on the foundations of our own St. Paul's still further emphasises the fact; and while these instances by no means justify undue interference or rebuilding of these structures, they show the danger of endeavouring to hand them down to posterity in exactly the same condition as we have received them. Most of the members of this Institute will, I think, sympathise with the desire of the Italians to re-erect their fallen tower, and be pleased that the Royal Academy has taken the lead in showing the practical sympathy of art-loving England with Italy in her loss. But how much better, by careful maintenance and judicious repair, to avoid such catastrophes!

In the case of St. Paul's a note of warning has been sounded apparently none too soon, and we look to the guardians of that great pile to take every precaution, on the best possible advice, to ensure its safety, appealing to the Government for funds should that be necessary.

But there is another and even greater danger threatening the buildings and antiquities of the kingdom which would rob us of much that gives this old country its charm; it is, I am afraid, a more subtle danger, and therefore more difficult to deal with. I mean the wholesale depredations of the "art" dealer.

I am informed, on reliable authority, that certain districts in this country are systematically mapped out by these gentlemen, and anything of interest, such as a panelled room, a moulded ceiling, a bit of ironwork even, a chest, or a clock, are all carefully scheduled, the position and means of the owner ascertained, and, as opportunity offers, the property is purchased, the cottage or house often pulled down, the contents sold, generally abroad, and then the land, stripped of its little treasures, is resold. It is difficult to use temperate language about such proceedings; but surely it behoves us, before it is too late, in conjunction with other Societies, to see if it is not possible to take some united action to get these buildings and fittings registered as national belongings, so that, at any rate, they cannot be removed from this country, a course which, I understand, has already been adopted, to some extent, in France and Italy. This is work in which other Societies are also interested, and we are always ready to act with them as occasion arises; indeed, it interests and affects all educated Englishmen.

It is in modern architecture, however, and its allied arts that our influence is naturally most likely to be exercised, especially at a time of such exceptional building activity as the present.

The Government is largely engaged in the erection of public buildings; local authorities all over the country are busy with the erection of town halls, asylums, schools, technical institutions, &c.; while the buildings, residential and commercial, in our great towns continue to increase at almost an alarming rate. What, I think, must strike most of us in all this activity is that while minute control is exercised by public authorities over the details of these buildings, such little control is exercised over the laying out of our cities that, to a great extent, they seem to be left to lay out themselves.

How often we see a really noble and costly building hidden away in some inconvenient and cramped site, without any approaches worthy of the name, simply because the land was easily obtainable or happened to be vacant at the time, or could be obtained cheaply, or to

improve the value of adjoining property; reasons we have heard put forward repeatedly, but nearly always resulting in the loss of a great opportunity of ennobling and beautifying the town; while, instead of money being saved, as is foolishly supposed, money is really wasted and thrown away.

A predecessor of mine in this Chair once urged when heading a deputation on the erection of a public building that the extra cost necessary for its worthy completion would, even from a commercial point of view, be soon repaid by the increased attractiveness of the city, and the number of visitors that would be drawn to it. The suggestion was received as if it was not seriously meant; but surely there is force in the contention, though it is but a secondary reason for urging on the public authorities the importance of so placing their public buildings that they may be the ornament and crowning feature of the town.

Why is the National Gallery site so frequently pointed to as an ideal one? Surely because it has, as so few buildings have in London, a slightly elevated site, with a large open space in front of it, and is approached by a main thoroughfare leading directly to its façade. The Royal Exchange has a fine site, for a similar reason. Wren carefully planned the most splendid approaches to St. Paul's, which would have made the City one of the finest in the world; but the greed and disputes of the citizens unfortunately prevented his scheme being carried out. Most of our public buildings have no dignified approach, and usually a general view can only be obtained in sharp perspective, from the roads which run *past* them, not *up* to them, and, as Wren says, they are seen sideways. The matter is of still more importance now that the picturesque manner of the Houses of Parliament and the Law Courts is giving place to a more palatial and formal style. Continental towns set us a great example in this respect, and though we may consider their love of straight avenues and boulevards is often carried to monotony, we cannot but admire the dignified and monumental surroundings they almost invariably contrive to provide for their buildings. I would venture to assert, though it should surely not be necessary, that every public building should be entirely detached, and should stand on a site of an area at least half as large again as the area which the buildings actually cover, and that they should, wherever possible, have a fine road leading up to them. The Americans, who are generally credited with a keen eye for the financial side of a question, are fully alive to this point, and are laying out their cities with great monumental dignity. It seems almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of the architectural surroundings of a building. In the case of private houses some architectural support in the way of steps, walls, and terraces is now usually designed, though unfortunately by no means usually carried out, and one has only to look at the design and the executed work to see how great the loss has been. But if important in a house, how much more so in a great public building! And yet in England how often is this entirely ignored.

Another matter which I notice in London and other places with regret is the disappearance, in the new quarters, of the old-fashioned "square," which adds so much to the appearance of the older quarters. The new-fashioned "gardens" apparently have taken their place, the difference being that while a "square" was bounded by a public road, and had the fronts of the houses facing it, the "gardens" have no surrounding road, and the backs of the houses abut immediately upon it. The result, of course, is that while the "square" adds greatly to the variety and beauty of our streets, the "gardens" are entirely hidden away, and might be non-existent, as far as the public thoroughfares are concerned. The advantage claimed is the increased privacy obtained for the "gardens," counterbalanced, surely, by the improved outlook given by the "square" to the front of the houses, while the somewhat sordid surroundings of the "garden," with its rows of back windows and its stagnant air, hardly make for beauty or restfulness.

Numerous other points in the laying out of our cities will occur to all of us, but I mention these two with a view to asking whether something could not be done to ensure that all such matters should be duly considered while improvements are under contemplation, and before it is too late. I venture to think that these are matters in which this Institute and our Allied Societies can do important public service.

The design and details of buildings are a matter for the individual artist, and not one, in my opinion, in which this Institute can often, if ever, usefully interfere; but when great improvements are in contemplation the opinion of such a body as ours, composed of Societies all over the country, may, I think, be of great use to the public authorities. Never, I feel assured, was there a time when our Corporations and County Councils were more anxious to do all in their power to improve the æsthetic aspect of our cities and towns, or more willing to avail themselves of every means to that end that may be open to them. The Government and the London County Council have frequently consulted this Institute on matters of architectural importance, and other public bodies do, from time to time, consult with their local Architectural Societies. Something, however, more definite seems to be required than this.

At present, as we all know, we architects are unable to erect any building, in any of our towns, without first submitting very complete plans, and in many cases elevations and specifications, to the borough surveyor, who exercises, under the local bye-laws, a strict supervision with regard to height and size of rooms, windows, thickness of walls, the minutest details of drainage, and other matters; but when it comes to laying out suburban districts, street improvements, and such like, which call for the highest qualities of the architect, the plans are usually drawn by the borough surveyor, and subjected apparently to practically no expert criticism whatever.

Now, might it not be required that when such schemes have to be prepared they should be submitted for criticism and advice to some expert architectural authority, such as, say, the local Architectural Society, who might also be asked to nominate an architect to consult with the surveyor in preparing the scheme, and, in the event of the Corporation or Council and the Architectural Society not agreeing on any point, might not the question be referred, say, for example, to the Council of this Institute? It surely could not be argued that this would be derogatory to the borough surveyor, for, as we architects cheerfully submit our proposals to the surveyors, there would seem to be no impropriety, but quite the reverse, in the surveyors laying their architectural schemes before the architects, and, in important architectural schemes, working with them.

In saying this it must be understood that I am not in the least impugning the capacity of the borough surveyors. They are, we all know, an exceedingly able body of men; but they are selected for these posts on account of their fitness and acquaintance with subjects somewhat apart from architecture proper, the study and practice of which subjects do not especially fit them for the designing of work of the highest architectural importance. They are, I venture to think, liable to have great pressure put on them to sacrifice too much to the very important questions of convenience and economy; and if this is so a further independent opinion would greatly strengthen their hands.

The tendency in recent years has been with Corporations to substitute for the official "architect," as he used to be called, the surveyor; and this is, probably, the most reasonable course, for the matters which the Works Department of a Corporation or Council have mainly to superintend would more perfectly come under this heading; but it would seem reasonable that, when strictly architectural matters have to be dealt with, they should be subject to the criticism of architects, not necessarily officially connected with the local body.

I have dealt with this matter at some length, because it seems to me one in which the

Institute could be of real use, and because it is one which so greatly affects the beauty of our cities and towns.

Another matter to which the attention of this Institute has been called is the local building by-laws in many rural or practically rural districts. This may at first sight seem a subject very remote from architecture, though in reality, as many of our members know, it affects architecture very much. These by-laws for rural districts are often drawn up on the lines of the building laws of large towns, they impose most unnecessary and burdensome conditions on those building in the country, and though the attention of the Local Government Board has been directed to the matter, and a deputation has been received, but little more has been done.

The London County Council have schemes on hand of the greatest magnitude, and they have, as is well known, consulted this Institute with reference to the great new thoroughfare from Holborn to the Strand. Unfortunately they were not able to adopt our suggestions in their entirety; but their committee, with the best intentions (which they appear not to have been strong enough to carry through), obtained designs in a limited competition, and a report upon them by an assessor, by whose decision everyone would have been willing to abide. This report, however, was not made public for two years, and appears to have remained a dead letter since; and now, I believe, this Institute and the public are absolutely in the dark, as to whether there is to be any general scheme or control over the buildings to be erected, and, if so, by whom this control is to be exercised, whether each plot is to be let to the highest bidder, without any reference to a general scheme, and, finally, what has become of the design placed first in the assessor's award; and yet it is hardly too much to say that in almost any other capital in Europe it would be looked upon as a matter of public and national importance, and surely it is one on which all are entitled to be informed.

In these public matters connected with architecture the daily press might do much to educate public opinion; without the aid of the press little is likely to be done. But in order to have the necessary influence, architectural matters must be treated with a complete and thorough knowledge of the subject, as is usually the case in matters affecting the cognate arts.

The encouragement of local schools of art by their municipalities is another matter that should interest this Institute. It will be remembered that when London was being decorated for the recent Coronation the decoration of Westminster Bridge was entrusted to the Royal College of Art; and, mainly through the instrumentality, I believe, of Sir William Richmond, funds were provided by the London County Council for the purpose, the students giving their services. A very ambitious scheme was prepared and carried out, though, owing to the postponement of the Coronation, the scheme hardly received the attention it deserved; but I have reason to believe it gave a great impetus to the work of the College, the students devoting much enthusiasm to a scheme which was not a mere exercise, but one in which their work was actually to be seen in position.

I think the London County Council and all concerned are to be congratulated on this experiment, which might be usefully followed throughout the country, for there are many buildings required for temporary purposes, such as those for exhibitions, receptions, rejoicings, meetings, all of which require erection and decoration, and present precisely the opportunity required for students to try their hands upon, and so to learn how much their work gains or loses when seen in reality, and in other surroundings than the studio in which it has been prepared. The employment of students in temporary work such as this is better than their employment on more permanent work, where their inexperience remains recorded against them, and may only end in discouragement. Besides it is only comparatively seldom that an opportunity for permanent work occurs, and when it does it is more properly reserved for men who have passed through the schools, gained experience, and proved their ability.

On the other hand, the temporary work gives the opportunity so much desired by students, and should it prove unsatisfactory it is soon removed and forgotten; besides, their employment should greatly increase the interest of the municipalities in their schools of art and the students who work in them. Much has been written lately of Municipal Socialism; we could, I think, do with a little more of it in this direction.

While considering the responsibilities of municipalities towards the encouragement of the arts and crafts, we may remind ourselves of the responsibilities that lie also with us. We rightly have a voice in the selection of the artists and craftsmen who work on our buildings, from the sculptor and painter who decorate them to the locksmith and upholsterer who furnish them; great encouragement may be given to the subsidiary arts if we take the trouble to find out individual artists to work with us in the various branches of the applied arts, and while fully illustrating our intentions give them sufficient freedom to carry out their own imagination and inventiveness, with their full share of credit for it. Depend upon it, great discouragement is caused to earnest workers, and much harm done, if just to save ourselves time and trouble we take the first article of commerce that comes to hand. Think what a school of craftsmen the enthusiasm of Pugin raised, producing work which is really little short of marvellous when we remember the sort of work that was being done at that time. We still feel its beneficial effects. Gilbert Scott, William Burges, J. F. Bentley, and many others, both dead and living, have done the same; it is certainly one of the directions in which we can do incalculable good or ill to our art, and it is a responsibility of which we cannot and must not divest ourselves.

Smoke abatement is another matter this Institute may do something to assist in. The thick dark veil that falls over all our buildings is distressing in the extreme. One of the principles which Wren laid down for the rebuilding of London was that "all trades that use great fires or yield noisome smells to be placed out of the town," and we should see to it in the present day that trades which cannot control this nuisance should be made to go outside.

Gentlemen, I cannot conclude without brief reference to one building recently erected, the Cathedral Church at Westminster, and its gifted architect, the late John Francis Bentley. The erection of a great church like this in the Metropolis is necessarily so rare an event that under any circumstances it would attract attention; but when, as in this case, the work was designed by one of the most inspired church architects of our day, and on lines different from any erected in recent times, it has naturally interested all of us, and excited in most of us an enthusiastic admiration. I do not propose here to give a critical notice of the building—that has already been done, from various points of view, by abler pens than mine—but rather to enjoy the pleasure of noting the erection of a modern building in which all can unite in finding much to admire, though it will be a matter of lasting regret that its architect was not spared in health to witness the completion of his labours, and to receive the congratulations attending the consummation of so great a work nobly, and one may say in his case heroically, carried through.

The present generation will probably have seen three cathedrals of the first class in course of construction—viz. the Cathedrals of Truro, Westminster, and Liverpool—the first, nearing completion, designed by one who mastered the old Gothic methods and feeling perhaps more entirely than any of his contemporaries, and who has produced a beautiful building, which might almost, so perfect is it, have been erected in the thirteenth century, and is probably destined to mark the high-water mark of achievement in the revival of a mediæval style.

At Westminster the problem was different from that required by the traditional Gothic plan

of a cruciform church, with deep choir and transepts; and this difference naturally and properly affected the whole design, and while an enormous uninterrupted area has been provided for the assembling of large masses of worshippers, the mystery so necessary for the interior of a religious building has been admirably preserved by the careful lighting, the simple intricacy of its arches, its piers, its ambulatories, and its chapels. It is a step forward in church building, nobly planned, and one for which we may be all unreservedly grateful. I would only venture to hope that some day the entrance front may be better seen from Victoria Street by the removal of one or two houses, and that the interior of the building may in due course be worthily completed.

The last cathedral, Liverpool, is still one of the possibilities of the future; let us hope that it may prove, when erected, yet another step forward. I have already expressed my own opinion, that the author of the design named as the best in the first competition should have been given an opportunity of showing what he could do on the new site; it has, however, been decided otherwise. The request, in the first Conditions for the second Competition, that the building should be designed in a certain style was a curious instance of the inability of the public to trust architects to design for them what is most suitable, for though this condition has been since withdrawn, it is, I believe, generally understood that the promoters remain of the same opinion still. We can only hope that the best man may finally be entrusted with this great monumental work, and that, when it is completed, he may be rewarded by the unstinted admiration of his brother architects, the highest reward any of us can hope to gain.

We, all of us, lavish endless praise on old work, but are, perhaps, too chary of bestowing it upon that of our own time. If we are always contrasting the greatness of old work with the inferiority of the new, can we wonder if the public take the same view, and ask us to reproduce for them what we all so greatly admire? It is true we cannot reproduce old work; but the public do not understand that, for we do not teach them so. Great painters are not asked to paint in the style of Giotto, Fra Angelico, or Titian, and would not do so if they were. Excellent copies of these great masters are made, and in a few years are sometimes mistaken for the originals; but they are not made by our great painters, and are esteemed of little worth. Sculptors no longer masquerade our living statesmen in Roman togas, or attempt to reproduce a Jubilee procession in imitation of the Parthenaic frieze. Why, then, should we still be asked to design in the thirteenth century or any other bygone style? Because, we are told, we have no style of our own. But are we quite sure that a tradition once broken can never be picked up again? And are we quite certain that the Renaissance tradition has ever been entirely lost in England? I do not think so. Are we going on for ever telling our young men they must not only study but copy old work, for they can never hope to produce anything equal to it? Is that likely to give them inspiration? Are we to tell them that while Painting and Sculpture are alive, the last word has already been said on Architecture? There cannot be an architect who holds this opinion, though, I am afraid, under present circumstances we cannot wonder if the public do so. I am not thinking of that will-o'-the-wisp, a new style—that may or may not come, I do not know; but rather suggesting that by a generous appreciation of modern work, and by boldly and generously showing our belief in it, good contemporary work may be encouraged, and abound among us, so that the public may come to believe and be interested in it also.

There is one quality we all desire in our buildings, whether we attain it or not, *Repose*, a quality we find alike in buildings so dissimilar as the exterior of St. Paul's and the interior of Westminster Abbey, in St. George's Hall, and even in that ornate river front of the Houses of Parliament. It is the result of good proportion, arrived at by matured knowledge, and guided

by a true artistic sense: it is entirely independent of styles, it combines simplicity without baldness and richness under control. It is a quality that can be felt, and, as Wren says, "aims at Eternity."

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

SIR LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA, R.A. [*Hon. Fellow*].—Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—It is my great privilege to propose a vote of thanks for the admirable Address we have all so eagerly listened to—an address full of interest for the Institute and, consequently, full of the aims of the profession that it represents—the exponents of that Art second to none, which would always be the glory of England were it only for its cathedrals. The Address was full of practical ideas, of many of which perhaps I am not a good judge. It dealt with the question of competitions, which seem to me, when fairly carried out, to be an admirable system, and to do away with over-great protection. Then there was that great question which is the order of the day, the question of Education; and also the question of Apprenticeship, which has declined so much of late years, to the great detriment of many crafts and professions, and of the nation. Let me beg you, gentlemen, not to do away with apprenticeship for architects. Let them study what is necessary in the schools, but let them have their years of apprenticeship in the office, where they can learn so much that they cannot learn otherwise; and where, too, they profit by the experience of those who went before them, even centuries before them. Apprenticeship has been done away with in the art of which I am a humble servant. There was a time when the Vandycks and Raphaels went through their apprenticeship, and when they learned from their masters how pictures ought to be painted and were painted. Nowadays a youth is sent to the Academy, where he learns how to paint a head, but very rarely a hand; where he has to listen to some lectures on anatomy, &c., and on architecture, and then is sent into the world to make pictures. But he does not know what a picture is. I was specially fortunate in that, having the knack of perspective, my master Leys took me into his studio and made me work on his pictures. That was a great thing for me, and I profit by it still daily. The question of education has another side, which has a great influence upon the art of the *full-grown* artist—if I may call him so, because an artist is never full-grown; he studies to the last, even in the last work that he produces he remains a student—I refer to the question of travelling. I am convinced that there is danger in a young man travelling in order to study the work of other countries. When, as a student in Antwerp, I received an offer of money from a friend of my

mother's to go on a travelling tour and see what other countries had produced, I refused; I preferred to remain at home. I remembered that the best artists never travelled until they realised their own aims and capacities. Then only could they judge of what their art had produced, and then only could they suck out the honey of those beautiful flowers of civilisation. And so it is, I think, with regard to architecture. We should be much nearer our style, our new style, our national style, or whatever you would call it, if architects studied more at home, because there is plenty to learn in architecture in our beloved country. The President has referred to the new Cathedral at Westminster, and to our dear friend Bentley, who passed away so much too early, but who will never be forgotten as long as that Cathedral stands. Then there was the question of those who have been less successful, and the claims of the Architects' Benevolent Society. We were told that so many of our members are not subscribers. I am one of the culprits, and, if you will allow me, I will subscribe at once [*taking a sheet of paper, Sir Lawrence subscribed his name for a donation of £5 to the funds of the Society*], and I invite those who have not subscribed as yet to follow my example before they leave the building. I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the President, which I am sure will meet with the unanimous assent of all in the room.

MR. J. MACVICAR ANDERSON, F.R.S.E. [*Past President*]: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I could have wished that the agreeable duty of seconding the Vote of Thanks which has been so happily proposed by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema had fallen into abler hands; but as the invitation came to me from the President and Council, I had no option but to accept it as a command. I am quite sure, Sir, we all join with you in congratulating our late President, Sir William Emerson, upon the signal honour that has been conferred upon him; and while saying so, I venture to go one step further and congratulate you, Sir, on the eminent position which you now so deservedly occupy. I have more than once expressed my conception of what an ideal architect should be: primarily, and before all things, an artist; secondly, and necessarily, a scientist; and thirdly, and also necessarily, a man of business. Now, I think all of us who know Mr. Aston Webb, or his works, must be convinced that he possesses all those qualifications

in an eminent degree. I therefore not only congratulate him, as I do most heartily, on the deserved honour that he has received, but I congratulate the Royal Institute of British Architects with no less cordiality on having him as their President. I will not presume, Sir, to detain this meeting by referring to all the subjects that you have dealt with, but there are a few on which I may offer one or two remarks. You have referred to the increase in our membership, and have said that, although satisfactory, possibly it might have been greater. So it might; but if you consider, not merely the question of those who have joined, but the much sadder consideration of those we have lost—many of them very dear to some of us, for instance, my dear old friend Ewan Christian, Charles Barry, and others—when you reflect on this, I think the increase in our numbers may be regarded as eminently satisfactory. You have announced that the Edinburgh Architectural Association have, after what you have described as some hesitation, come into alliance with the Institute. It has been said by no smaller an authority than the great Dr. Johnson, and by others after him, that the Scotchman is a very cautious and canny person. Now, as a Scotchman (and I am proud of my nationality) I regard all such remarks as gross libels! At the same time, if there is truth in the observation that a Scotchman thinks twice before he enters upon a new venture, you may be quite sure of this, that when he has once made up his mind he will go through with it. Therefore I congratulate both the Institute and the Edinburgh Architectural Association on having come together, and believe that the alliance will result in good to both. You have referred several times, Sir, in your Address to ten years ago. Ten years ago brings us back to the period when I had the honour of sitting in the chair which you now occupy. On that occasion I remember calling attention to the dearth of attendance of members at our regular meetings, and I appealed to them in what seemed to me the honest and straightforward course of pointing out to them their duty as Fellows of the Institute. Alas! for the decadence of ten years. To-night we have listened to an invitation put forward to members of the Institute to do their duty in this way—not as I put it—but on the so-called “up-to-date” and somewhat questionable inducement of a Smoking “At Home!” It is possible, Sir, that you may be supported not only by the members of the Institute, but by those whom I have been accustomed to designate as “the fair sex!” Whether, however, the fair sex will add to their fairness by indulging, as so many of them now do, in clouds of fog, is questionable! In regard to our funds, it must be gratifying to every member of the Institute to hear that they are in such a satisfactory condition. Referring again to ten years since, I remember suggesting an improvement in the

publication of our JOURNAL and TRANSACTIONS, which I thought I was not optimistic in reckoning would save the Institute at least £500 a year. I have had nothing to do with the management of the Institute of late years, and I do not know what the actual result has been; but I am sanguine enough to hope that that does form a not unimportant part of the diminution of expenditure which has taken place. The premises question is one which you have also referred to, and I agree with you, Sir, that in many respects our present premises suit us very well indeed. It is a subject that I should not be disposed personally to press. Of course, the time may come when we must, if we do not manage to get additional accommodation here, go elsewhere; but I should hope that the Council will see its way to let the matter rest for the present, and to let the question develop itself. We never can tell what the changes of life may bring, and possibly we may be able to get what we want here, a situation which must be admitted by everyone as being scarcely one to be improved upon. The question of examinations I will not enlarge upon, except to recall that—again referring to the historic ten years—that was a subject that filled our minds at that time with considerable anxiety. You may remember that the examination of Associates had then lasted ten years, and we were considering the question of subjecting Fellows to a similar ordeal, which we afterwards decided to do, the Fellows being elected only, subject to certain exceptions, through the class of Associates. It is eminently satisfactory to me, having been a believer in the examinations, to hear that so large a number of men now come forward for them. It is a subject which has been considerably misunderstood. You may remember, Sir, that at that time a Memorial was presented to us headed “Architecture, an Art or a Profession”—architecture being of course not an art or a profession, but an art and a profession, as I have already hinted in the remarks referring to yourself. It is very gratifying that the examinations have proved such a great success to the Institute. The question of competitions, I am afraid, Sir, we shall never agree upon. My opinion has been often expressed on the subject, and I will not enter upon it now except to say that I have always regarded competitions as an almost unmitigated evil, not an advantage. I am afraid, therefore, I do not agree with Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema's remarks on the subject, but I think that architects could put a stop to all the evils of it by simply declining to compete. As regards the Architects' Benevolent Society, the figures that you have quoted, Sir, are very remarkable. I am quite aware that we are a poor lot, taking us all round; but at the same time there are few of us who might not afford a little as an annual subscription to that most deserving Society, and it is

extremely gratifying to see that so good an example has been set to-night by our distinguished Honorary Fellow, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema. The only other subject to which I will refer is that of the improvement of London, to which you devoted a considerable part of your Address. We must all wish that Sir Christopher Wren's splendid idea had been carried out; London would then have been something to be proud of, instead of being composed, as regards the City particularly, not of fine streets, but of what one may almost designate as narrow lanes. A good deal has been done and is being done towards the improvement of London by widening old streets and forming new thoroughfares. Opportunities are lost, no doubt—one notable opportunity was lost in regard to the National Gallery site, to which you have referred. I have always thought, and I had the opportunity of putting it before a Parliamentary Committee some years ago, that the grand improvement there would be to widen Whitehall on the west side, so that the National Gallery and the Nelson Monument would have stood centrally in it; however, the old question of cost came in, and the idea unfortunately was not carried out. One other thing on which I think we must all congratulate ourselves

—at least I do—is that the latest idea of the London County Council to erect their Palace on the site of Adelphi Terrace and to sweep away all the characteristic work of the Adams, whose work we all appreciate and are so fond of, has, for the present at all events, fallen to the ground. We owe something to my friend Mr. Statham, whom I see present, for the way in which he has protested against it, and I trust we shall never see that scheme, at all events, carried out. I will not detain the Meeting further than to second very heartily the vote of thanks which has been moved by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema to our President for his able, thoughtful, and interesting Address.

The Motion, having been put by Sir L. Alma-Tadema, was carried by acclamation.

THE PRESIDENT, having briefly expressed his acknowledgments for the Vote of Thanks, referred again to the premises question. It was, he said, his own ambition, as he was quite sure it was the ambition of all architects who were present in that room, that some day the Institute might be able to erect buildings which would receive the honest appreciation of such an assembly as that present in the Meeting-room that evening.



9, CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W., 8th Nov. 1902.

CHRONICLE.

The First Sessional Meeting.

The Opening General Meeting was one of the best attended on record. Some present recalled that such a gathering had not assembled in the rooms of the Institute since the day when the late Lord (then Sir Frederic) Leighton was presented with the Royal Gold Medal in 1894. Mr. Aston Webb, who took the Chair for the first time as President, received the warmest of greetings, and the hearty and prolonged applause at the close of the Address showed with what appreciation the audience had followed it throughout. The reference to the honour bestowed by the King upon Mr. Webb's predecessor in the Chair, Sir William Emerson, who was present among the audience, gave members an opportunity for a second and equally cordial manifestation of feeling. The President's appeal on behalf of the Architects' Benevolent Society was turned to happy account by Sir L. Alma-Tadema when proposing the Vote of Thanks for the Address. Describing himself as "one of the culprits" aimed at by the President, he stepped to the table and subscribed his name upon a sheet of foolscap for a donation of £5 towards the Society's funds, calling upon other non-subscribers to follow his example. Mr. George Frampton, R.A. [H.A.], later, attached his signature for a similar amount. This special list is still open at the Institute, and the addition of further names to it will be duly noted in this column.

The New Allied Society.

Not the least interesting item on the Agenda at the Meeting last Monday was the Council's recommendation that the Edinburgh Architectural Association be admitted to alliance with the Royal Institute. The President in his Address expressed the gratification with which the Council had received the proposal for alliance, and the manner of its adoption by the Meeting when the motion was put from the Chair leaves no doubt that the alliance is very cordially welcomed by the general body. The Edinburgh Architectural Association,

which has just entered on its Forty-fifth Session, was formed to promote and afford facilities for the study of Architecture, and to serve as a medium of friendly communication between the members and others interested in Architecture. It has four classes of subscribing members—viz. *Fellows*, practising architects of three years' standing; *Members*, persons engaged in artistic or collateral pursuits or interested in the study of architecture; *Associates*, assistants, pupils, and apprentices of architects, civil engineers, or surveyors, and junior designers; *Corresponding Associates*, Associates residing more than fifteen miles from Edinburgh. *Fellows* and *Members* constitute the Senior, and *Associates* the Junior, Section of the Association. There are some 264 members in the Senior Section, and 209 in the Junior. Some Past Presidents are Professor Baldwin Brown [H.A.], Dr. Rowand Anderson, and Mr. Hippolyte J. Blanc, R.S.A. [F.] The present President is Mr. A. Hunter Crawford. The Association issues annually some well-illustrated *Transactions*, a few volumes of which are in the Institute Library. There are now four Scottish Societies allied to the Institute—those of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The admission of the Edinburgh Association will necessitate a re-arrangement of architectural districts north of the Tweed, and a revision of the map issued with the *CALENDAR*.

The Statutory Examinations in Building Surveying.

The examinations of candidates seeking certificates of competency to act as District Surveyors under the London Building Act, or as Building Surveyors under local authorities, held by the Institute pursuant to statute, took place on the 23rd and 24th ult. Five candidates attended and were examined—three for office under the London Building Act, and two for office under local authorities. Two among the former passed, viz.,

WILLIAM GEORGE PERKINS, of Carn Brea, Mantilla Road, Tooting, London.

ARTHUR HALCROW VERSTAGE, of 34 Cantlowes Road, Camden Square, London.

These gentlemen have been granted by the Council Certificates of Competency to act as District Surveyors under the London Building Act. The other candidates failed to satisfy the Board.

The Council, on the recommendation of the Examining Board, and with the approval of the London County Council, have resolved that these examinations shall be held once a year only—viz. in the month of October—instead of twice, as formerly.

In the new *CALENDAR*, at pages 299-306, will be found a List of District Surveyors now holding office under the Act, together with a full description of the districts under their charge, and particulars of their offices, residences, hours of attendance, &c.

The Royal Institute of Ireland.

A deputation from the Council of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland waited upon Lord Dudley on the 17th ult. to present an address of welcome upon Lord Dudley's taking up his residence in Ireland as Lord Lieutenant. The deputation consisted of Messrs. J. Rawson Carroll [F.], Vice-President; Sir Thomas Drew [F.], W. M. Mitchell [F.], W. J. Gilliland, R. Caulfield Orpen, C. A. Owen [F.], Albert E. Murray [F.], J. Howard Pentland, Frederick Batchelor [F.], and W. Kaye Parry [F.], Hon. Sec.

Mr. Rawson Carroll, Vice-President (in the absence of the President) read the address from the Institute, which stated:—The Institute has over one hundred members upon its roll, including architects practising in all parts of Ireland. The qualifications necessary for membership have been so framed as to admit all architects of good repute who have acquired a sufficient professional training to enable them to discharge the responsible duties which, from the nature of their professional work, are constantly laid upon them. No qualified architect of unblemished reputation is ever refused admission to the ranks of the Institute. It is the anxious desire of every member of the Council that the privilege of membership should be synonymous with upright conduct and faithful, earnest, truthful work. In their efforts to protect the interests of the members of an honourable profession and to safeguard the public from the action of irresponsible persons who have no claim to the title of architects, the Council look with confidence for your Excellency's support and goodwill. The Council venture to hope that when your Excellency has had the opportunity of examining the work of Irish architects you will be justified in forming the opinion that they have done something towards the advancement of architecture and the embellishment of the cities and towns of their native land.

His Excellency, in reply, said: Gentlemen, I thank you warmly, both on my own and upon Lady Dudley's behalf, for your kind words of welcome and for the renewed assurance of your loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty the King. I have not, as yet, had an opportunity of visiting the larger towns of Ireland, but from what I have seen in Dublin there is ample evidence of the artistic genius of Irish architects. The functions of your Institute, as set forth in your address, are deserving of every support, for it is abundantly clear that no country can take its proper place among the civilised nations of the world without institutions such as yours, which do so much to form and guide the artistic perceptions of the public. Ireland can supply in great profusion and variety the raw materials of your craft, and I feel sure the efforts which the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction is now making to

bring before the public notice the beautiful marbles, the splendid building stones, slates, &c., of this country are appreciated by your profession. I am very glad you recognise and bear testimony to the efforts which have been, and are being, made by that Department and other public bodies to promote the prosperity and develop the resources of the country. Upon that prosperity your opportunities for the full display of your art must to some extent depend; but money alone will not build beautiful buildings, and it is probably the most valuable function of an Institute such as yours to steadily educate public taste until the community will not tolerate bad art. It has given me much pleasure to have the opportunity of meeting you here to-day, and I thank you again for the kind wishes you have expressed to Lady Dudley and myself, and for the happiness you have wished for us during our official residence amongst you.

The members of the deputation were introduced to their Excellencies.

The Campanile of St. Mark's, Venice.

From CAV. WILLIAM SCOTT [A.]—

In connection with the mention of Mr. Blackall's paper (*JOURNAL*, Vol. IX., p. 490) it might interest some of our members to compare the pamphlet by Commendatore Giacomo Boni—of which there is a copy in the Institute Library—entitled *Il Muro di Fondazione del Campanile di S. Marco*. The excavations to which Mr. Blackall refers were carried out entirely under the direction of Signor Boni as representing the Italian authorities, it being evident that they could not allow such a delicate operation to be conducted by a foreigner, though I remember hearing that an amicable arrangement had been made as to the expense incurred. I notice that while Mr. Blackall says the piles were of oak, and the planking of larch, Signor Boni states that the planking was of oak (*Quercus robur*) and the piles of poplar, *pioppo* (*Populus alba*). I was in Venice at the time of the excavations (July 1885), but can add nothing to the very complete information given in these two papers, except that I have in my possession a small piece of the oak taken out of the foundations, and this is still absolutely sound, hard, and perfect after its thousand years underground.

Bordighera: 20th October 1902.

From JOHN HEBB [R.F.]—

The ruins of the Campanile of St. Mark at Venice have been removed in barges, and the piazza in front of the cathedral is now completely disencumbered of rubbish. The technical commission appointed to inquire into the causes of the catastrophe has already succeeded in making some curious discoveries. In the caretaker's lodge, on the ground floor, what is described as an

economical kitchen (*cucina economica*), possibly a hot plate, or perhaps a gas stove, had been installed in the thickness of the external wall; in the centre of the tower the brickwork had been cut away in order to form cupboards, recesses, and lastly a small aquarium. Another face of the tower has been cut into, as far as the middle of the thickness of the wall, to increase the size of the caretaker's lodge, and in the wall thus reduced in thickness openings had been formed for ventilation. In other words, the members of the commission have been enabled to verify with their own eyes the prophetic words of the Government architect, Commendatore Giacomo Boni, that "the Campanile was in the condition of a man who had both his legs amputated." It results from these investigations that the stability of the foundations of the tower is now considered to be placed beyond question, and one of the most specious obstacles to the proposed rebuilding, namely, the alleged insecurity of the foundations of the Campanile, the palladium of Venice, has, it is hoped, been removed.

It is a curious coincidence that the present secretary of the municipality of Venice, the Commendatore M. Memmo, who is believed to be the last of his race, is a descendant of the Doge Memmo in whose reign the foundations of the Campanile are said to have been laid in 888.

REVIEWS.

AN EPOCH-MAKING CATHEDRAL COMPETITION.

Filippo di Ser Brunellesco. By Leader Scott. "Great Masters in Painting and Sculpture." 80. Lond. 1901. Price 5s. net. [Messrs. George Bell & Sons, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.]

The recently published life of Filippo Brunelleschi, by Leader Scott, contains in a small compass much interesting light upon the conditions of architectural practice in Florence five centuries ago. The records of the cathedral works have provided a number of items of practical interest to architects which the author sympathetically deals with, and joins to a correct appreciation of the facts a description of his subject's character and genius which is readily felt to be natural and satisfactory. The central interest of the book is, of course, its narrative of the building of the dome of Arnolfo's great cathedral by Brunelleschi, and of how he secured the commission, for such it can be called, by a competition in many characteristics similar to those of our own day. We find the cathedral committee; the rivals; the expert assessors and their fees; the hesitation to trust a gigantic work to one man, and the appointment of consulting architects; the workmen and their trades unions; the strikes,

and their settlement by the employment of black-legs by the architect; the committee's inspections and luncheons, and the limitation of a supply of intoxicating beverages to workmen upon a very high building; and a strong sense of professional exclusiveness—all as picturesquely existent in Florence in the first quarter of the *cinque cento* as they are permanently irritant in this impending session of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

All this, 500 years ago, seems so curiously modern and unexpected, in spite of the known persistency of those elementary instincts of humanity which engender competitions in architecture and "ca' canny" in the building trade, mainly because it occurs in the closing era of great mediæval achievement, when all, we have so long believed, was in such direct contrast in motive and method to ourselves and our habits, a difference which debars us—committees, workmen, and their politics being what they are—from hoping for any serene results to our labours in cathedral architecture competitions.

We can well take some valuable courage from this little book, in assuring ourselves that the compelling force of Brunelleschi's enthusiasm for his own certain knowledge of the possession of architectural capacity overcame the difficulties around him, and sufficiently strengthened his resolve to endure all the annoyances of mistrust and pettiness to which he was subjected. Uncertainty or cowardice of his own power of design would have been revealed at an early stage in the erection, upon a scale never before attempted, of that huge cupola; but the architect was certain of himself, and therefore courageous, and his confidence of progress upon the fruits of a vast previous study of the principles of ancient Roman buildings, enabled him to break away from the whole European mediæval era and bring to birth in a Gothic cathedral the architectural revolution afterwards known as the Renaissance.

The cathedral architect in him became a man, and is now more than the tool of a guild; he thinks for himself, has large ideals not hide-bound with traditions of the elders. The system, developed through an enchanting vista of centuries, which had vaulted and domed the churches of Christendom, had found a problem in the span of the Duomo octagon which its traditions and masters vainly endeavoured to solve, and failing in the initial endeavour to propound a scaffolding for its masterpiece, the whole system disintegrated and tottered to the ground. The dilemma of the span and the scaffolding prompted the notion of a competition for plans and models. The competition was promoted fairly, with a large premium for the winner, and payment of the expenses of the unsuccessful competitors; and it was wisely stipulated that the practicability of the design constructively should be demonstrated by a model.

Advertisement of conditions by proclamation and crier, and successive extensions of time ensued ere Brunelleschi's design, his own unaided work, was completed, demonstrated, and accepted.

But the appearance of Filippo Brunelleschi in the competition, and the revelation by it of his capacity to effect at Florence Cathedral that which the mediæval guilds and traditions could not, was more than a mere coincidence without previous connections. Seventeen years previously he had first gone to Rome, in some chagrin at the selection of Ghiberti's design for the baptistery door panel in a sculptors' competition; and had devoted himself to the study of Roman architecture, possibly from a connection of thought with the attention that sculptors and goldsmiths were then giving to antiquarian remains, and possibly also from the desire to explore and excel in an art unknown to his rival Ghiberti. His study was most thorough, extending to the careful measurement of the scheme, plans, and details of available Roman work, and he even uncovered the roof of the Pantheon dome to discern the secrets of its strength. It is possible that in all this the idea of solving the much discussed problem of the Duomo was present to his mind, and it is certain that on returning to Florence he had the conviction that his new acquaintance with wonders of the architecture of the ancients had provided the key to its solution. Enthusiastic certainty of his capability to do what was necessary carried him into the discussion of the completion of the Duomo with the masters of the work, and his vigour and persistency of self-assertion in committee was such that we are told how he had to be forcibly carried out of the room before proceedings could be concluded. Though laughed at in the streets on account of the absurdity of his ideas, he maintained that he had the solution at hand, and returned to Rome again, having left the masters of the guilds and of the work conscious of the existence of an individual who, though not of their brotherhood, or admitted as a master even of the building guild, being only a goldsmith, was convinced that he could perfect the failure of the age. The strong individual had impressed his strength upon the system, and the existence of his convictions alone—he had not revealed any scheme or plan—prompted the idea of a competition among all who had ideas or advice to offer for the completion of the Duomo. The high spirit, the new-found spring of life in Roman constructive art, and the confident will, with its reserve of power acted upon by the imaginative fire common to all artists, here fed with such stimulating fuel, focussed in Brunelleschi's person; and in spite of the incredulity of assessors, committee, and the citizens, his design won the prize of achievement, and demonstrated the first move of art beyond the limitations of Gothic tradition in cathedral building.

The life work of Brunelleschi has other characteristics than that of mere force of character. The mechanical part of his genius, a necessary concomitant, was always at work upon scaffolding hoists and stone jointing, while his early works in sculpture have wonderful interest and power. In architectural design he displayed a breadth of feeling and love of refinement in detail which combine in a quite enchanting way in such works as the Badia at Fiesole, the Pazzi Chapel at Santa Croce, and the churches of San Lorenzo and San Spirito, the plan of the latter being a masterpiece of simplicity and picturesqueness. The qualities of these works and of his domestic palaces are subjects of great interest to the architect, and upon which little can be said in a small book. The pre-eminent position that Brunelleschi holds as the founder of the Renaissance of architecture in Italy, and the immense influence which he exerted through a long life, and continues to do through his works, could almost be considered apart from the Duomo at Florence, and will continue to offer profitable study to the student of architectural history as well as to the practical designer; but, amidst all the charm and interest of his life and work, his victory in the epoch-making competition for Florence Cathedral remains the central feature, not only of Leader Scott's book and of his life, but of the architectural history of the Christian era.

BERESFORD PITE.

AN ANCIENT CASTLE OF DENMARK.

Le Château de Copenhague. By Carl Christian Andersen. Fo. Copenhagen, 1902. Price 40 fr. H. Hagerup.

The author of this work, Herr C. C. Andersen, was assisting the City Engineer of Copenhagen, in 1901, in some excavations of the site of the Castle of Christiansborg when he came across the massive foundations of a tower of the ancient castle destroyed in 1731. These remains led him to the interesting task of reconstructing the ancient castle, of which the work under notice, illustrated by reproductions of old drawings, plans, sections, and elevations, is a complete monograph. This castle, originally built about the year 1167 in the then little fishing village of Havn as a protection against pirates, seemed to remain in the hands of the bishops till the early part of the fifteenth century, when it passed into those of King Eric of Pomerania. Meanwhile extensive additions had been made, the most noteworthy feature being the great blue tower the foundations of which were discovered in the recent excavations. It was in this tower that the unfortunate Countess Leonora, the daughter of Christian IV., languished a prisoner for twenty-two years. The castle was partly rebuilt in 1721, but, ten years later, it was pulled down, the moat filled up, and the rococo castle of Christiansborg erected by Christian VI. This

in its turn was burnt in 1884. Herr Andersen's monograph is extremely well done, and cannot fail to be of interest to antiquaries. The text is written in Danish, but there is a *résumé* in French.

LEGAL.

The London Building Act, s. 74, sub-s. 2: Connection of Two Buildings.

At Greenwich Police Court, on 17th September, Mr. Baggallay gave his considered judgment in a case which had been argued before him by Mr. Germaine, K.C., for the owner, and Mr. Palmer Andrews for the London County Council. The summons was against Mr. Badger, District Surveyor, at the instance of Mr. G. F. Havell, builder, High Road, Lee, who appealed against a requirement of the District Surveyor with reference to the connection of buildings, Nos. 1 to 4 Obelisk Buildings, Lewisham. —Mr. Baggallay, in his judgment, said that the District Surveyor had required the builder to carry out section 74, subsection 2, which provided for special protection from fire in the case of any building used in part for trade and in part as a dwelling-house. The buildings in question were erected before 1894, and no objection could have been taken to them under any law then in force. Neither building was, however, constructed in accordance with section 74, subsection 2. The builder proposed to connect the two buildings by making an opening in the party-wall which separated them, and in these circumstances contended that No. 5 should be treated as an addition to Nos. 1 to 4, and that provided No. 5 be so altered as to comply with the section of the Act of 1894, he could not be compelled to carry out the requirements of the subsection in respect of the buildings Nos. 1 to 4, and he relied on sections 209 and 210, and that, even if it should come within section 74, subsection 2, he was nevertheless protected by section 210. If the intended operation amounted only to an addition or alteration to the existing buildings no doubt the builder's first contention would be sound; but he (Mr. Baggallay) was of opinion that the real effect would be to unite the two buildings within the meaning of section 74, subsection 2, and that in that case section 210 did not exempt him from the consequences. The objection of the District Surveyor was therefore good, and he ordered that it be affirmed.

Drain or Sewer?

At the Lambeth Police Court, on 21st October, Mr. Hopkins gave his decision in regard to a summons taken out by Inspector Kerslake, on behalf of the Camberwell Borough Council, against the New Century Estate Company, of Eastcheap, with regard to the repair of a combined drain draining a house in Linnell Road, Camberwell, owned by the defendants. The question for the decision of the Court was whether a deviation from the drainage plan sanctioned by the Camberwell Vestry (the predecessors of the Borough Council) had made the drain a sewer within the meaning of the decisions, and, as such, repairable by the Council and not by the defendants. The Council maintained that the deviation had not cast the burden of maintenance upon them, and relied upon the decision in the recent case of *Gorringe v. The Mayor of Shoreditch*, 86 L. T. Rep. 592. Mr. Hopkins, after reviewing the facts of the case, said he thought he was justified in holding that the work which was originally done was substantially the drainage sanctioned by the vestry. His order, therefore, would be that the defendants should carry out the work now required within one month. His worship expressed his willingness to state a case.

Duties of District Surveyors: Temporary Floor over Public Bath.

At the Marylebone Police Court, on 2nd October, Mr. Plowden heard a summons issued at the instance of Mr. Frederick Meeson, the District Surveyor for Paddington, against Messrs. W. H. Handover & Sons, builders, for failing to give notice before executing certain work at the Paddington Public Baths. Mr. Stokes, solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. Dennis, solicitor, appeared to defend on behalf of the Borough Council. It seemed that for many years the Borough Council had been in the habit of transforming the public baths during the winter months into halls for concerts, lectures, &c. For this purpose it was necessary to erect over the baths a temporary floor. Up to the present year no notice had been given of this to the District Surveyor, but it was now claimed on behalf of that gentleman that, under section 78 of the London Building Act 1894, he was entitled to notice, and that the work must receive his approval. Otherwise, it was urged, serious accidents and loss of life might occur, and as a proof of the need of supervision it was pointed out that seventeen of the timbers found at the baths by the Surveyor when he visited them on October 16 were very defective. These had been previously used for the flooring of the baths. Mr. Dennis, for the defence, contended that the work in question was not "a structure" within the meaning of the Act, and cited *Venner v. Macdonell*, 66 Law J. Rep. Q.B. 273; L.R. (1897) 1 Q.B. 421, where it was held that in the case of seats erected at the Agricultural Hall in connection with the Military Tournament the District Surveyor was not entitled to notice. Mr. Plowden pointed out that that case had reference to seats and not to flooring. He held that the latter did come under section 78 of the Act, and that it was a matter with respect to which notice should have been given to the District Surveyor. He therefore fined the defendants 10s., with two guineas costs.

MINUTES. I.

At the First General Meeting (Ordinary) of the Session 1902-1903, held Monday, 3rd November 1902, at 8 p.m., the President, Mr. Aston Webb, A.R.A., F.S.A., in the Chair, with 56 Fellows (including 21 members of the Council), 63 Associates (including 2 members of the Council), 1 Hon. Fellow, 4 Hon. Associates, and numerous visitors, the Minutes of the Meeting held 23rd June [JOURNAL, Vol. IX. p. 423] were taken as read and signed as correct.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of the following members:—viz. William Salway* [F.], George Truefitt* [R.F.], Charles France [F.], Emerich Steindl* [Hon.Corr.M.], and Eugène Müntz [Hon.Corr.M.].

The President announced that messages of condolence were being sent by the Council to the families of the Hon. Corresponding Members above referred to.

The following members attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted and signed the respective registers—viz. Arthur Harrison [F.], Frank Loughborough Pearson [F.], Walter Stephen Tucker [A.], James Ewing [A.], Edward Vincent King [A.], and Norman Thorp [A.].

The Secretary announced the results of the Statutory Examinations for the offices of District Surveyor and Building Surveyor held by the Institute during the month of October (see p. 14).

* Obituary notices of those marked with an asterisk have already appeared in the JOURNAL. A memoir of M. Eugène Müntz is kindly promised for the JOURNAL by Monsieur Ch. Lucas [Hon.Corr.M. Paris].

The following candidates for membership, found by the Council to be eligible and qualified according to the Charter and By-laws, were recommended for election:—As FELLOWS, William Black (South Africa); Wilfred John Hardeastle; Leonard Vincent Hunt [A. 1888]; Leonard Martin; James Ransome [A. 1893]; Samuel Bridgman Russell [A. 1890]. As ASSOCIATES,* George Wilfred Allsop (*Special Examination*) (New Zealand); Chevalier Worby Beaumont (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1899); James Herbert Belfrage (*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1901); Ralph Berrill (*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1899); William Bevan (*Special Examination*); Harold Courtenay Bishop (*Probationer* 1896, *Student* 1898); Edwin Dace Brown (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1899); Reginald Percy Chamberlain (*Probationer* 1899, *Student* 1900); Henry Chapman (*Probationer* 1896, *Student* 1899); Alfred Rowland Conder (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1899); Edward Furness Marson Elms (*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1901); Richard Fielding Farrar (*Special Examination*); John Harold Gibbons (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1898); Thomas Harry Gibbs (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1899); Thomas Sedgwick Gregson (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1897); Baxter Greig (*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1901); Percy John Groom (*Probationer* 1893, *Student* 1896); Percival Joseph Haywood (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1899); William Herbert Hobday (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1900); Orton Holden (*Probationer* 1893, *Student* 1896) (*Kettering*); Henry Stringer Jardine (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1897); Ivan Calrow Kent (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1899) (Hailsham, Sussex); Reginald Guy Kirkby (*Special Examination*) (Sunderland); Henry Louis Emile Merille de Colleville (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1897, *Qualified for Assoc.* 1901) (Brighton); William James Nash (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1899) (Bournemouth); Charles Frederick Newcombe (*Probationer* 1892, *Student* 1897) (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); Percival Corney Newman (*Probationer* 1892,

Student 1894); William Campbell Oman (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1899) (Johannesburg, South Africa); Edwin Osman Payne (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1900); Wilfred Stonehouse Payne (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1900); Richard McMinnies Roberts (*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1899) (Warrington); Alexander Robert Robertson (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1899); Ernest Simm (*Probationer* 1893, *Student* 1896) (Osbaldestone, Lancs.); Spencer Smith (*Probationer* 1896, *Student* 1898) (Deal); John Swarbrick (*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1900) (Manchester); Charles Frederick Ward (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1900); Lloyd Foster Ward (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1898) (Birmingham); Christopher William Frederick Wheeler (*Probationer* 1895, *Student* 1899) (Horsham); Thomas William Whipp (*Probationer* 1900, *Student* 1900) (Scarborough); Henry Armstrong Wilson (*Probationer* 1896, *Student* 1898) (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); Robert Gordon Wilson, jun. (*Probationer* 1897, *Student* 1900) (Aberdeen); Douglas Wood (*Probationer* 1898, *Student* 1899) (Newark-on-Trent); Willie Wrigley (*Probationer* 1896, *Student* 1898) (Wakefield). As HON. ASSOCIATE, George Mallows Freeman, K.C., J.P.

The President announced that application for alliance with the Royal Institute had been received from the Edinburgh Architectural Association, and that the Council recommended that the application be acceded to. Whereupon, on the motion of the President, it was

RESOLVED, that the Royal Institute of British Architects, pursuant to the provisions of Section XVII. of the By-laws (Nos. 77-81), do admit the following Society to alliance with the Institute—viz. The Edinburgh Architectural Association.

THE OPENING ADDRESS OF THE SESSION having been delivered by the President, a Vote of Thanks, moved by Sir L. Alma-Tadema, B.A. [H.F.], and seconded by Mr. J. Macvicar Anderson, *Past President*, was carried by acclamation and briefly responded to.

The proceedings then closed and the Meeting terminated at 9.35 p.m.

THE BEGINNINGS OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE: NORMAN VAULTING IN ENGLAND.

By JOHN BILSON [F.], F.S.A.

MR. E. W. HUDSON'S Paper, printed in a recent number of this JOURNAL,* seems to call for some reply from me. I scarcely think, however, that it would serve any useful purpose to follow him over the wide range of examples he mentions, or to discuss the authorities he quotes, especially as some of the latter wrote at a time when the state of knowledge on this subject was such as to make their opinions of little present value. I shall confine my remarks, therefore, to points which more immediately affect the question at issue.

Mr. Hudson is scarcely correct in thinking that I have advanced the claim of England "as against

different provinces of France for the honour of having first produced ribbed vaults in Western Europe." My examination of the history of the earliest ribbed vaults in England has led me to the conclusion that these vaults show complete independence of any influence from the Ile-de-France, and that M. Lefèvre-Pontalis was wrong when he asserted "la nervure est une découverte essentiellement française" (*i.e.* of the Ile-de-France). I have stated my belief that, "judging from the evidence hitherto presented, the earliest of these Norman vaults are earlier in date than the period of the systematic development of the ribbed vault in the Ile-de-France,"* but I have

* JOURNAL R.I.B.A. IX. 509 *et seq.*

* JOURNAL R.I.B.A. IX. 350.

nowhere advanced any claim on behalf of Normandy or England for priority over every other province of what is now France.

Mr. Hudson speaks of my "amended claim," my "modified claim." The view for which I contended in my reply to M. de Lasteyrie is precisely that which I set forth in my Paper. Hitherto nothing that my critics (including Mr. Hudson) have said has given me any reason to modify my opinion.

Some passages in Mr. Hudson's Paper make me inclined to doubt whether his "further consideration of the Durham example" has included an examination of the church itself. If he had studied the actual work on the spot, he would scarcely need to be told that none of the vaults in question have shouldered keystones, but that in the vaults of the choir aisles, transept aisles, and nave aisles, and in the high vaults of the transepts and nave, the joints at the sides of the keys continue (more or less accurately) the lines of the sides of the ribs.* He would have discovered, too, that "the extreme difference of detail and ornament"† in the vaults, which he finds so difficult to explain if my dates are correct, exists equally in the walls of the church, as indeed we should naturally expect in work which covered a space of forty years. He would have found in the nave arcades, triforium, and clerestory, and in the nave aisle vaults, patterns of zigzags which are much more to the point than examples drawn from distant churches—unless he goes to the length of denying that the nave was built during Flambard's episcopate. Nor, I think, is anything beyond an examination of the nave vault itself required to disprove the absurd idea that it dates from the middle of the thirteenth century.

Mr. Hudson's references to "secular monks," to "Carileph's migration from Christchurch to Durham," and to "Bishop Roger's nave vault at Lincoln of c. 1123" are, I suppose, due to slips of the pen;‡ but his mention, on the same page, of a pointed ribbed vault at Durham attributed to 1104 is a more serious mistake. The pointed form occurs, in the Durham vaults under discussion, only in the transverse arches of the nave vault, which I have attributed to 1128–1133, as indeed Mr. Hudson states in his next paragraph.

Mr. Hudson seems to ignore the consideration that, in the design of the choir and east side of the transepts of Durham, we have an essentially vaulted design, and I cannot gather from his Paper what opinion he has formed on the dates of

the vaults of the aisles of the choir and transepts. With regard to the high vaults of the transepts and nave, Mr. Hudson suggests that after Flambard's death, in 1128, the clerestory walls of the nave and transepts were completed, and that temporary wood ceilings were erected, which were replaced by the existing vaults before Bishop Pudsey's accession in 1153.* I have already pointed out the difficulties which must be met before such a suggestion can be entertained. The theory is impossible so far as the clerestory walls of the north transept and nave are concerned, for the setting out of the clerestory windows proves (as I have shown)† that the clerestories were built with the existing vaults. Mr. Hudson does not attempt to reconcile his theory with the differences in the detail of the vaults of the north transept, south transept, and nave, although elsewhere in his Paper he emphasises these differences. The plain sense of the passage which tells us that Flambard built the nave *usque ad testudinem* (whether *testudo* be taken to mean ceiling or vault) is ignored on account of the assumed necessity of putting this vault some twenty years later than the date to which I have attributed it. Symeon's continuator tells us that in the time of Geoffrey Rufus (1133–1140) the chapter-house was finished (*consummatum est*);‡ but if we are to accept Mr. Hudson's theory, this finishing cannot have included the vault, which he admits to be later than the nave vault. The chapter-house vault in that case must also have been a subsequent addition. I must confess that I can see no justification for thus ignoring the statements of a contemporary chronicler without a particle of evidence drawn from the structure itself.

When Canon Greenwell first aroused my interest in this subject some years ago, I was hampered by the theories of "authorities" which still disturb my critics. A careful and prolonged study of the building, with the assistance of the documentary evidence and a study of many other examples of early vaulted construction in England, led me to the conclusions set forth in my Paper. If my dating of these vaults is wrong, by all means let me be put right. I desire only to arrive at the truth. But I must again point out that, if my critics wish to disprove my story, they are bound to substitute for it some intelligible history of the church and its vaults which is based on an analysis of the evidence afforded by the structure itself. The vaults are *there*, and must be explained.

* I have already stated this (JOURNAL R.I.B.A. VI. 299, and note §).

† JOURNAL R.I.B.A. IX. 512.

‡ *Ibid.* IX. 513.

* JOURNAL R.I.B.A. IX. 517.

† *Ibid.* VI. 348.

‡ *Ibid.* VI. 318, note *.

